



Hey Everyone!

Deanne and I wanted to give you an update on life this past month! As you know – we arrived in Bellevue on August 28th! It was such a blessing when our friends, Mike and Val Davis, showed up to help us unload the U-Haul to get our mattresses out that first night. And our OC teammates pitched in and helped us unload the pods. Over these past few weeks, we've made great progress as we've settled in. We were really thrilled to find a refrigerator on Craigs List that was just a mile away. We've stripped wallpaper off the walls and Deanne has painted several rooms. It's starting to look a lot like home here. (And the good news is we have a guest room available – and it's already been used twice!)

NOTE: After I finished writing this email – I realized it's quite long and you might not have time to read it all right now. If that's the case – please jump down to the bottom and read the prayer requests and take a moment to pray for us! Then come back and finish reading when you can!

Many of you heard that Maddie's first day at school was delayed two weeks because of a teacher's strike. She was actually bummed that school didn't start. Yet before the strike ended, she met a great Christian girl at a gathering of local churches – and Katie even gave her a ride to school the first day! We are excited that Maddie auditioned and was selected to continue her ballet training in Seattle at the Pacific Northwest Ballet School (at their highest level). She drives into the city (about 14 miles) every day after school and on Saturday mornings. We experienced an answer to prayer in receiving financial assistance in the form of a partial scholarship from PNBS that will help with the tuition – PTL!

Doug is definitely fitting in to life at Juilliard. It was so wonderful that Deanne was able to travel to NY with him and help him to settle in. He is taking several classes (Humanities, Music Theory, Ear Training, etc) plus flute lessons from his teacher each week. He has also joined a weekly Beta Group Bible Study that is connected to his church (Redeemer) and he loves it. He's made lots of friends, is getting along with his roommate, and has mastered the subway system. While we miss him lots, Deanne and I are very proud of him. He is preparing for performances and a recital in November, and will have the opportunity to perform at Carnegie Hall in December. He certainly is enjoying all of what life at Juilliard has to offer!

We've started worshipping at Crossroads Bible Church in Bellevue – Maddie is connecting to the youth group. I was thrilled to hear them announce that they are starting a daughter church next year and hope that I can be an encouragement to the church planter. Deanne and I are also looking for opportunities to get connected to ministry there and other ways to meet people. (Fun trivia: the executive pastor is Tim Jack, who was my high school youth pastor.)

Speaking of ministry, I've had a full plate of opportunities this month. I've enjoyed connecting with our OC Team here in Seattle. They are an incredible group to work together with! I'm so grateful that God has brought us here.

I recently spent a very busy six days in California (Sept 12-17). I thought I'd share with you how I spent my week... I've been coaching a church planter in Riverside and over the weekend, I partnered together with my friend Steve Ogne to lead a Launch Team Retreat (LTR) with Pastor Roy Shinn and the initial team starting The Promise. It was a powerful two days and I am excited to continue working with them as they prepare for their first preview worship service on October 5th. I also was able to connect with Pastor David Kim of The Garden Christian Fellowship in Chatsworth which is the parent church. On

Monday, I met with the Missionary Church Western District Church Multiplication Team and interviewed two potential church planters. We are currently involved with 12 church planting projects in the Western District. It's such a thrill to be part of what God's doing through assessing, coaching and training church planters. After the team meeting, I had a great meeting with a potential financial supporter. On Tuesday, I spent more time with Steve Ogne – we are working on a book project together that focuses on removing barriers to engaging in the mission of Jesus. Then I had a coaching appointment with Louis DeLuca who is planting a church in Oxnard called Sojourn – followed by a District Executive Board meeting in NewburyPark. On Wednesday, Dan Miller and I worked together to assess Tyler Kelley – a potential church planter from north San Diego county. Then I flew "home" to Seattle – quite a trip!

I wrote most of this letter as I was flying back from six days in New York City (Sept 19-24). This was primarily to meet with the national church planting leaders with the Missionary Church. I have been serving on this team for the past several years and we meet together annually to strategize and develop the systems for multiplying churches across the US. It was also great to meet with Mark Reynolds and to learn more about the Redeemer Church Planting Center. Of course, the bonus for this trip was spending time with Doug. I got to see his dorm and explore the Juilliard campus. I loved seeing Doug working in the library (his work study job) on Saturday and attending the Juilliard Christian Fellowship (JCF) on Saturday evening with about 40 students worshipping together. It was also a thrill to worship with him at Redeemer Presbyterian Church and to hear Tim Keller preach. That afternoon we headed out to Long Island to hang out at Dan and Donna Brady's place (Deanne's sister). It was great to see Doug relax by getting out of the city! My meetings on Monday and Tuesday were fantastic and I'm eager to contribute through coaching and training in the coming year.

What's ahead? Together with our teammates, I am planning to participate in the Missions Fest conference in Seattle (Oct 3-4) and the Mosaix conference in Portland (Nov 7-8) followed by a consultation on Intercultural Coaching. The team is also working to establish our goals and objectives as a team for 2009 and beyond. I am hoping to contribute to this process this fall!

I will keep coaching the church planters that I am working with – and Deanne and I continue to be asked to provide assessments for church planting couples. We are planning a trip to Arizona to assess three couples there in October and may take an additional trip to Southern California later this fall.

Because we are not yet deployed, we are not full members of the US Team at this point. Our hope and prayer as we moved to Seattle and began to settle in this month was that we would be fully supported by October 1st. Because of increased housing expenses – we have been asked by OC to raise \$400 more than we had anticipated. Would you pray with us for God to provide this additional amount? Your prayers make an incredible difference! Thanks for standing with us in this transition!

We are getting close to completing this support raising phase of ministry – but we currently need about \$1200/month. We are praising God for two new donors that joined our team last week – and I got an email today from a new friend indicating that they were planning to support us too. Would you praise God with us! We know these are uncertain economic times! And each of you feels this in different ways. That's why those who give faithfully each month are such a blessing to us.

I'd like you to consider one more thing - Do you know anyone who might join our team and help us reach our support goal? I've attached a new brochure that describes what I do - essentially I help new churches get started! Could you share with them about our mission? And then let us know so we can connect with them personally. This would be a huge blessing to us as we take these final steps to reach our goal.

Here are some things to be praising God for:

- 1) Maddie's acceptance into the Pacific Northwest Ballet School and a partial scholarship for tuition!
- 2) Maddie's connection with the youth ministry at Crossroads Bible Church.
- 3) Doug's new friendships at Juilliard and Christian fellowship.

4) Positive steps in getting to know our neighbors here in Bellevue.

Here are some things that you can be praying for:

- 1) Maddie's transition here in the northwest - especially for good Christian friends.
- 2) Deanne to find a job that will contribute to the remainder of Maddie's ballet tuition.
- 3) My positive contacts with local churches and church planters here in the northwest.
- 4) God's continued provision for our emotional, spiritual, financial and relational needs.

Also - there are some opportunities that are being presented to me for 2009 that I would like to ask you to be praying about too. One is to be further trained in developing my coaching competencies. Another is to become a trainer of coaches for church planting. A third opportunity is to be a presenter at training events with the CMTC (Church Multiplication Training Center). Each of these connects with my passion and missionary focus – but I want to make sure that I am using my time to do the wisest things.

Thanks to each of you who pray for us – we really need it. And thanks, too, to those of you who contribute financially to our missionary support. We can't really thank you enough for your specific partnership in what we are doing.

I am emailing this update out two different ways – if you have not signed up to receive our monthly prayer letters via email, please follow this link: <http://onechallenge.org/newsletters/?p=subscribe&id=2>. Then enter your email address and check the box next to Dave and Deanne DeVries and click "Subscribe to the Selected Newsletters." Thanks! This will help you get updates regularly.

We love you and thank God for you!

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